

remained practically unaffected by the conditions which have produced the differences among the birds; the temperature of the host's body, the feathers as food, all of the environment of the parasite is practically unchanged. The parasitic species thus remains unchanged, while the ancestral *Larus* or *Anas* species becomes differentiated into a dozen or score of specific forms, all with a common parasite. If this proposed solution of the problem may be accepted, it introduces a factor into problems of distribution, where parasites are concerned, which I do not recall having seen presented before."—J. A. A.

Thompson on the Cranial Osteology of the Parrots.¹—"To discover anatomical characters such as might yield or help to yield a natural classification of the Parrots has been the desire of many ornithologists, but the search has availed little."

Professor Thompson's line of research is a detailed study of the quadrate, the auditory region, and particularly of the orbital ring as regards its completeness or incompleteness, and the cranial bones taking part in its formation. These are the lachrymal, or prefrontal as Prof. Thompson prefers to call it, the postorbital or postfrontal, and the squamosal, and the changes are so rung that when a suborbital ring is present it may be formed by the prefrontal and postfrontal, the prefrontal and squamosal, or, as in the Cockatoos, all three may unite, thus forming a supratemporal fossa. The conditions prevailing in many members of the various families and subfamilies admitted by Mivart are discussed in considerable detail, but while additional emphasis is given to the family rights of *Stringops* and *Nestor*, Prof. Thompson has given us no summary of his own conclusions, leaving us to make our own applications of the points he has given. The paper is most valuable, embodying as it does the results of long study, but it again emphasizes the familiar fact that among birds minor structural variations are so great that it is practically impossible to find any one character by means of which even small groups may be separated.—F. A. L.

Lange's 'Our Native Birds, How to Protect them and Attract them to Our Homes.'²—As the title explains, this is a popular bird book on rather new lines, it being devoted to an exposition of how to protect birds and to promote their increase in the vicinity of our homes. The first section of the work relates to the decrease in both song and game birds and

¹ On Characteristic Points in the Cranial Osteology of the Parrots. By D'Arcy W. Thompson, C. B., F. Z. S. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, Jan., 1899.

² Our Native Birds | How to Protect them and Attract | them to our Homes | By | D. Lange | author of "Handbook of Nature Study" | Instructor in Nature Study in the Public Schools | of St. Paul, Minnesota | With Illustrations | New York | The Macmillan Company | London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. | 1899 | All rights reserved.—12mo, pp. xii + 162. \$1.00.